

Gustav Henningburg  
"The Education Side"  
1968 - 1980

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Henningburg served as Vice Chairman of the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) for the first ten years of the program; he was appointed by Governor William Cahill as a member of the Committee on Goals--The Master Plan for New Jersey Higher Education; he has been a Trustee of St. Paul's College, Lawrenceville, Virginia; Essex County College, Newark, New Jersey; and Bloomfield College, Bloomfield, New Jersey. He was an advisor to the Black Organization of Students at Rutgers-Newark; and an Adjunct Professor at City College of New York and Seton Hall University in South Orange.

As a lecturer, he has addressed many national and local organizations as well as universities and preparatory school audiences. These institutions include the Harvard Business School, Rutgers University, Cornell University, Stanford University, Andover Academy, Newark Academy, the National School Boards Association, and the New Jersey Association of Black Educators. He has also spoken at many inservice training programs for urban teachers, parents and community workers.

Henningburg founded and organized the pre-alumni program of the United Negro College Fund--the first program in America through which students provided financial support for their own colleges. Henningburg served for five years as assistant to the President of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. He was appointed by Governor Brendan Byrne to Chair the N.J. Committee to Study the Governance of the County Colleges. The recommendations of this Committee resulted in fundamental changes in the governance of New Jersey County Colleges.

He graduated from Hampton Institute in 1950 and in 1970 received his Alma Mater's Distinguished Alumni Award. That same year he was awarded the Trustees Outstanding Alumnus Award, marking the first time in the history of the college that one person received both awards. He has received other distinguished awards from academic institutions, including the Trustees Distinguished Service Award from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

During his tenure as President of the Greater Newark Urban Coalition (1968-1980), Henningburg was responsible for the supervision of the New Jersey Education Reform Project, the educational arm of the Coalition to oversee the implementation of the Robinson v. Cahill mandate of a "thorough and efficient" education for all public school students in the State. The Reform Project became the most effective advocate on behalf of the urban school districts in the State of New Jersey.